

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, May 26, 1994

Published Since 1877

Race this chaplain runs is definitely in fast lane

By David Winfrey

TALLADEGA, Ala. (BP) — A shouting Baptist minister is nothing new unless he is trying to be heard over the roar of V-8 racing engines.

As chaplain to stock car drivers and fans, Frank Stark says his current job description parallels the one at his former pastorate in Strafford, Mo.

"We're not organized as a church, but this is my field right here," he says, motioning to the pits where drivers and mechanics prepare for a race that afternoon.

"We have weddings here, counsel with the bereaved. Talk with people, listen to them, pray with them. Share their burdens and their joys," he says. "You do basi-

cally the same things. It's just that your congregation's a lot farther away from home."

Drivers describe Stark as a friend and confidant in an increasingly competitive profession. Often, more than 50 racing teams with \$60,000 automobiles compete for only 40 starting positions in a race, said Bob Loga, president of the Automobile Racing Club of America.

"He always has time to stop and talk," says ARCA driver Loy Allen Jr. "He's always uplifting when you meet him because he has such a positive attitude."

Part-time driver Jim Elliott agrees. "He's just been a good friend and a special person," says

Elliott, who was married five years ago by Stark under his tent outside turn three at Talladega Superspeedway. "I always want to look him up as soon as I get to the race track so I can shake his hand and feel good."

Stark began hosting services for fans in 1982 after finding no worship service at his first trip to a NASCAR race. "Seeing 135,000 people with no church, I said, 'Here's a tremendous opportunity. Somebody ought to do something.'"

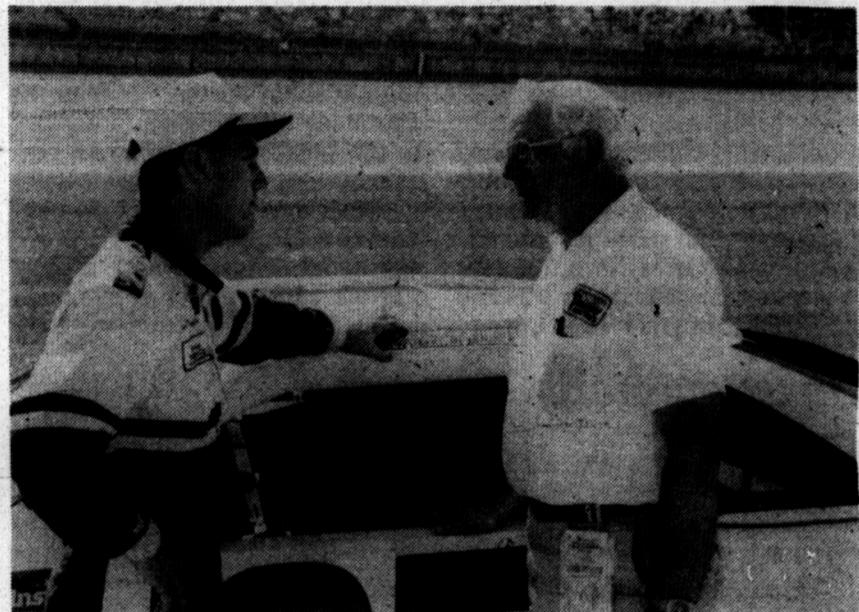
Four years later, Stark became chaplain to the racers, crews, families, and officials of ARCA, the second largest sanctioning body for racing, next to NASCAR. In addition to leading a weekly worship service, Stark also staffs the infield care center during ARCA races.

Before the green flag drops, Stark often shakes hands with each driver during introductions, wishing them "Godspeed and God's safety." Before and after races, Stark roams the pits, offering a pastor's heart to those who can't get to a church on Sunday mornings.

Stark began vacationing at Talladega and other tracks, hosting worship services and Saturday night country singings with people trained to share their faith.

In 1985, he left his church to begin Raceway Ministries Inc., establishing a nonprofit organization and becoming a Mission Service Corps volunteer with the Home Mission Board.

His decals include a portion of Acts 20:24, "If only I may finish the race." He adds, "One driver



A DAY AT THE RACES — Frank Stark (right) became chaplain to the drivers, officials, mechanics, and families of the Automobile Racing Club of America in 1986. "It won't be organized as a church, but it's your congregation," the former pastor says. Here, Stark talks with Jeremy Mayfield, a former ARCA driver, who now races in NASCAR.

said, 'That's been my prayer all season.'"

Raceway Ministries has attracted the attention of others, and Stark has trained several groups to develop similar ministries at local tracks or on other circuits.

He says he wants local congregations to adopt race tracks and host the worship services for fans because they are better prepared to meet the ongoing ministry needs of those they reach. Of the 18 NASCAR tracks, 13 now have locally lead ministries to fans, he says.

"The most difficult part is trying to get the church to see that this is a mission field," he adds.

Racing's reputation prevents some churches from being involved in such ministries, says Bill Brannon of Atlanta, who sometimes assists Stark in his work.

"The race fan has a reputation as being a hard drinker and so forth, but he's one of the few that loves God and country," Brannon says. "Racing is one of the few major sporting events that is opened with an invocation."

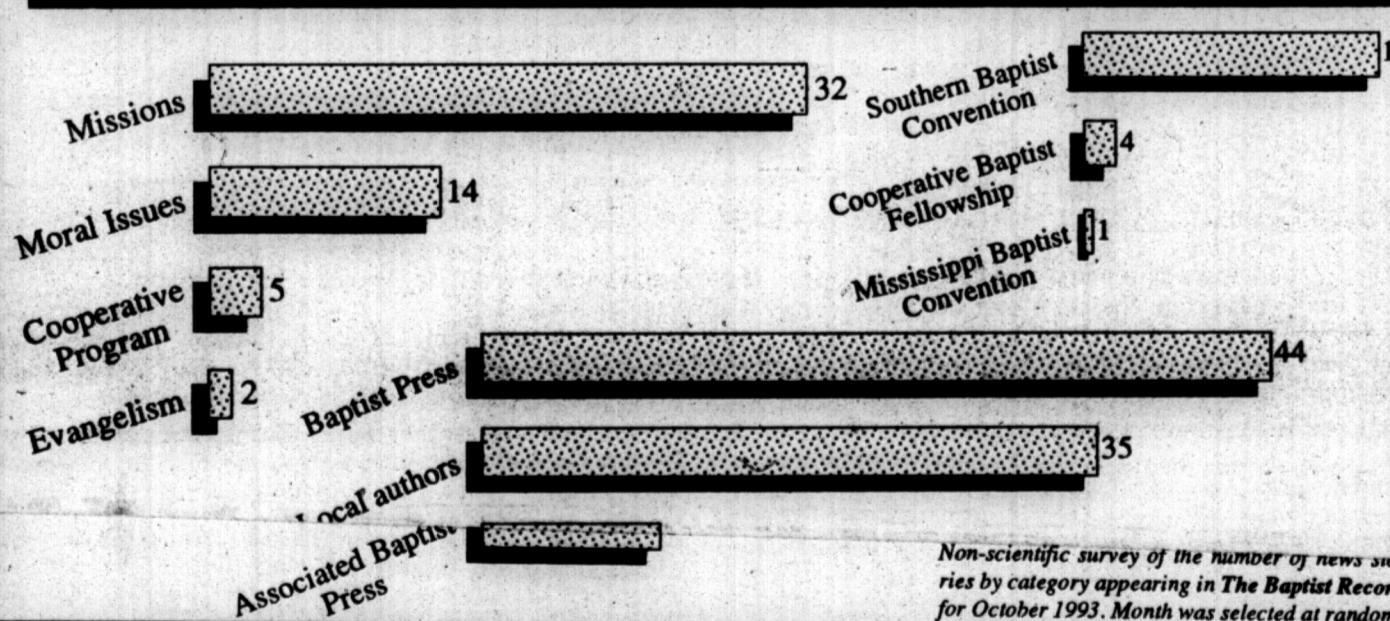
Most unique ministries take time to gain legitimacy, Stark says. "You have to build a good track record," he says. "No pun intended."

Winfrey is associate director, News and Information, HMB.



A CRINGE AND A PRAYER — Frank Stark's duties include ministering to drivers and families following wrecks in Automobile Racing Club of America races. Here, driver Jerry Glanville emerges safely from a spin out April 30 at Talladega in the Food World 500K. (BP photos by David Winfrey)

What types of stories are published in an average month?



Looking Back...

10 years ago

Passa Quatro Baptist Mission in Brazil, built by First Church, Yazoo City, is constituted as a church with 48 members. An average of three people every month are baptized, though baptisms must sometimes be postponed because of flood waters in the nearby river used for baptizing.

20 years ago

Baptist layman D.B. Mahaffey of Jackson pays his own way to Missoula, Montana, to help in a revival that results in four baptisms on the first night of the six-night revival. Most of the Montanans say they had never before seen an immersion baptism.

50 years ago

The graduating class of Southern Seminary creates a special student fund to honor the memory of J.D. Franks Jr., whose father serves as pastor of First Church, Columbus. The younger Franks was killed last summer while bombing Romanian oil fields for the allies.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Thursday, May 26, 1994

Guy Henderson

Is it time for a change?

Reading constitutions is not the most desirable assignment and unless you want to prove something, they are seldom read. Our state convention constitution reads, "the Convention shall meet annually at such time and place as it may determine." (Art. V, Sec.1).

In 1984 the convention voted to have a Pastor's Conference on Monday and the Convention would then begin on Tuesday morning. The convention is to elect officers, appoint committees, hear resolution, in addition to hearing from colleges, boards, and agencies. Interspersed is a variety of inspirational messages, choirs, the convention sermon, and the president's address. Two full days of meeting is adequate for this and the various program and Order of

Business committees have done a creditable job in the past.

The problem appears to be Wednesday afternoon and evening. Many messengers feel the need to be in their own church on Wednesday night, thus there is a fair exodus. Last year the Wednesday afternoon and Wednesday evening attendance was very slim. It takes one-fourth of registered messengers to make a quorum. It would be embarrassing not to do business because of absences. Moreover, it's not fair to the speakers and program personnel.

Other messengers feel the convention should provide more inspiration. This is valid, assuming we can conduct convention business also. Presently we have

the Evangelism Conference and several preaching conferences promoted by various departments. Prior to 1984 the convention began on Monday noon and continued until Wednesday noon. This seems to be the best format and would insure more time to consider convention business. If there are those who feel the need of a pastors' conference, it could begin Wednesday afternoon and continue through Thursday morning.

Little can be done about this until 1995 since programs are already set for 1994. We do encourage messengers to plan to remain at the convention through the Wednesday evening session. The date for the convention is Nov. 1-2.

Guest opinion...

SBC needs a modern-day Solomon

By Jack Brymer

The dismissal of Russell Dilday as president of Southwestern Seminary was not a surprise. It had been in the making for more than a decade. The only unknown was the timing.

The action (March 9) in Fort Worth leaves only two SBC leaders from the pre-1979 regime — Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary and Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. (Both Leavell and Ferguson have announced their plans to retire in 1996. See related article in the April 7 and April 21 issues of *The Baptist Record*.)

This transition of leadership in the Southern Baptist Convention has been a painful struggle. In fact, it has been deadly. In most instances, for example, those chosen for leadership positions in the "conservative resurgence" were done so on the basis of "blood stains" from the struggle. In a few cases, some extremely competent conservative leaders were rejected for these leadership posts because they had not been in the heat of the battle. They had "shed no blood."

Yet, the success of any movement, particularly one conducted in the name of God, must be measured as much by the means in which it succeeded as by its ultimate goal. The apostle Paul raised such an issue when he asked: "What profiteth a man if he gain the whole world but lose his own soul?"

King David found this lesson a

bitter pill to swallow. He was a man "after God's own heart"; a man who led the "chosen" of God to their pinnacle in affluence and influence. Yet, here was a man God deemed unworthy to build the temple to house the ark — the symbolic presence of God.

"You have killed too many men in great wars... you have reddened the ground before me with blood: so you are not to build my Temple," God told David (1 Chron. 22:7-10). Instead, God gave him a son and said his name was to be Solomon (meaning peaceful). "...And I will give peace and quietness to Israel during his reign. He shall build my temple."

Winning but losing.

Apparently, a sizeable number of Southern Baptists have indicated the need for a theological course correction in the SBC. Depending on one's source of information, that number ranges from "the majority of 'grassroots' Southern Baptists" to at least a majority (ranging from as small as 51% to 60%) as reflected in voting patterns of the messengers attending annual meetings of the SBC for the past 15 years.

How much of this need for a course correction was actually grassroots sentiment is questionable. Attendance at annual meetings prior to 1979 had hovered around the 12,000-15,000 mark. In the 1980s, however, the number of messengers attending at least the Tuesday afternoon sessions when the president is elected, more than doubled and reached a record high

of 45,000 in 1985 in Dallas.

Was this sudden and dramatic interest the result of a fear of creeping liberalism in the SBC? Or was it the result of a skillfully planned strategy of a few? Whatever the reason, one thing is certain. Those seeking to redirect the Southern Baptist Convention to a more theologically conservative position have succeeded. In the process, however, there have been needless casualties of which Russell Dilday is merely the latest.

Too little too late?

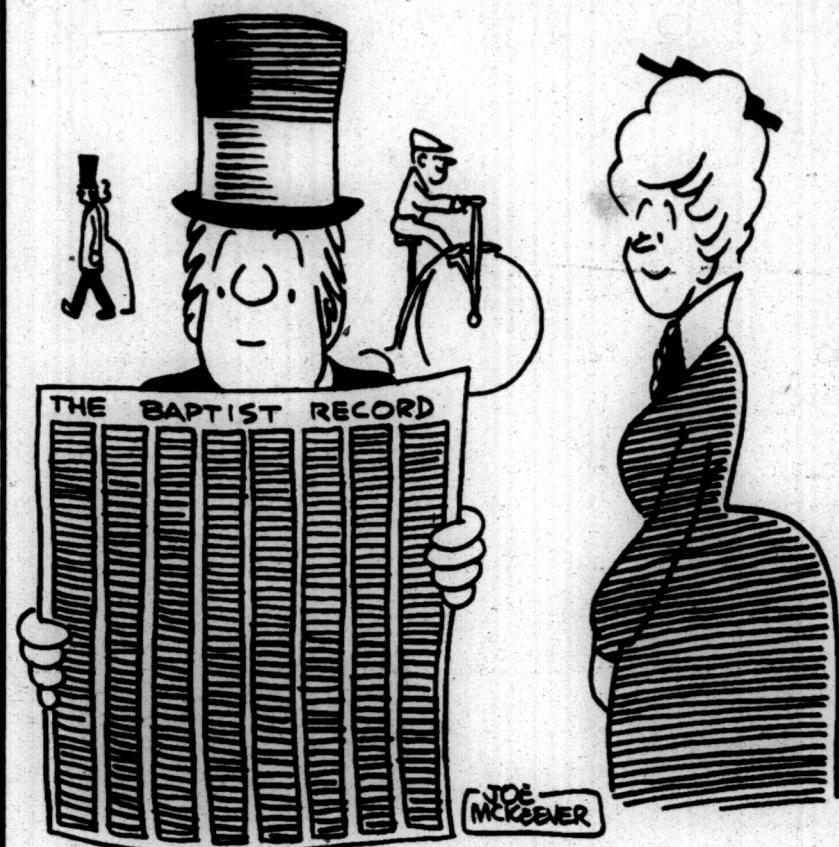
It is to be understood that the trustees of Southwestern Seminary have the responsibility of doing what they think is best for the institution, including firing the president. But do trustees of any Baptist institution have the authority to tell Baptists they are not accountable for their actions?

And herein is cause for concern which, for the first time in more than a decade, is now being expressed even by some of the major supporters of the "conservative resurgence."

While such a response is long overdue, it may be a little late for some to "wash their hands" of a movement in which they have been blessed.

One thing is certain. The Southern Baptist Convention remains divided, warring, and wounded. At this point in her history, she is as much misdirected as redirected. We may now be right theologically, but we have certainly been unrighteous in arriving there. What is our hope? A man,

SINCE 1877...
MISSISSIPPI'S LONG-PLAYING RECORD



OBSERVE BAPTIST RECORD SUNDAY
JUNE 5 IN YOUR CHURCH

THE FRAGMENTS

Whose job is it?

The whistle needs to be blown. The cat must be belled but who will do it? The pastor and choir-master can ill afford to do it. The parents have pled, but to no avail.

I mean you are treading on the Constitution, the First Amendment, the Sixth Commandment, and what could be your last editorial. Still, I keep hoping someone would mention the unmentionable.

Summer is upon us. Loose, comfortable clothes are a must. However, the era of shorts fall short of what is acceptable in church. Pants and jeans perhaps for Sunday night, but teenagers and adults wearing shorts seems inappropriate. We need a PPA attack — parents, preachers, and all churches — to let the kids know there is a limit.

Ah, you say, man looketh on outward appearances. We live in the 21st century, people have changed, times, methods, ways,

trends, and dress codes have all been altered. You are old-fashioned, out-of-step, a dull fuddy-duddy adult who hates to see kids enjoy themselves.

Kids like to express themselves in their clothing. Peer pressure is strong to say something with what you wear. "Let me do it my way; don't try to put new wine in old wineskins, don't tell me what to wear. I'll dress up on Sunday morning for high worship but the other times we need to be expressive, informal, and hang loose."

Don't make it a test of fellowship; don't drive people away over a few inches of cloth. This "more you cover the holier you are" attitude is akin to the "cover your head in church" or cover your face in public.

All of this may be so, but please, let all things be done decently and in order; especially in June, July, and August. — GH

or woman, dedicated to "peaceful" means of correcting our deficiencies. A person who will respect rather than demean leadership. A person who will seek advice from trusted state leadership rather than from a clandestine central clearing

house. Let us pray that God will provide Southern Baptists with a modern-day Solomon.

— Reprinted with permission from the March 31 issue of the FLORIDA BAPTIST WITNESS. Brymer is editor.

The Baptist Record

VOLUME 118 (ISSN-0005-5778) NUMBER 16
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

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Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Send news, communication, and address changes to The Editor, BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 (601) 968-3800.

Partnership yields confidence, successful first crop

By Michael Loftice

Michael Loftice and his family are serving as agricultural missionaries in Beit Bridge, Zimbabwe under the auspices of the Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership Project. Loftice is recruiting farmers to convert from their present crops and agricultural practices to sorghum, which grows better in the harsh climate and meets more of their needs. The following is excerpted from a recent report to supporters of the ministry.

The project is going well overall and we are continually grateful to God and his people for making it possible for us to serve him in this way.

I am convinced that without

prayer support, this project would never have gotten off the ground. God has shown his faithfulness and awesomeness in so many ways.

Through the provision of material necessities (seed, fertilizer, equipment), to the raising up of willing and capable national leadership, to the provision of the best rains in 15 years, and through the encouragement of his spirit, God has testified of his great love and faithfulness to his people.

When I went to observe one man's field it looked like a complete flop (rats and birds ate the seed), but he had shown his neighbor how to use the new methods and even helped her plant the seed.

The neighbor's field was a tremendous success and he was greatly encouraged by the results. He had also helped two others plant their fields with the same victorious outcome!

At every village, we see some failures. At every village, we see some great success stories. At every village, the people are excited and encouraged by what they have witnessed in their field or a neighbor's field.

God has provided examples in every village of what practicing the "new methods" correctly can do.

The participants (in the project) feel much more confident in their ability to utilize these new methods for growing sorghum

successfully. I feel confident that this is a strategy that will work here at Beit Bridge.

All the praise, honor, and glory be to our God.

We are working through 22 established churches. Local church leaders have been instrumental in keeping the project organized and focused. Two new churches have been started in Beit Bridge district as an extension of the sorghum project.

While the Mississippi Team was instrumental in organizing the new church at Tshinavhazwimi, the initial contact was made through the sorghum project.

(I) and some national church leaders held regular preaching/

teaching services at Tshinavhazwimi for about four weeks prior to the Mississippi Team organizing the church.

The second new church is in Mudanamba. The initial contact for this church also came through the sorghum project.

The sorghum project is making a difference for the Lord's Kingdom.

Keep us in your prayers. Continue to pray for the always-needed rain. God bless you all and the work you do.

Loftice can be contacted through the Partnership Missions office at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, May 26, 1994

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Fight to finish in store over casino site near Gulfshore

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Mississippi Baptists are gearing up for what may be the final battle to prevent a large casino from locating in the quiet neighborhood around Gulfshore Baptist Assembly in Pass Christian.

The state's 2,000 Baptist churches have been warned the date is near for a hearing before the Mississippi Gaming Commission (MGC) on the proposal by Spectrum Gaming, Inc., to build an around-the-clock gambling facility less than 400 yards from the 40-year-old state Baptist campground.

Chuck Patton, MGC spokesman, said the time, date, and location of the hearing have not yet been publicly announced.

In a letter to the state's churches from the Christian Action Commission (CAC) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, executive director Paul Jones urged pastors across the state to promote a "huge outpouring" of personal letters to the state's gambling regulators, who are the three appointed commissioners and the executive director of MGC.

The letter-writing campaign has produced a "flood" of correspondence on its way to MGC headquarters in Jackson, Jones said.

"The CAC letter was distributed in one church during Wednesday night prayer meeting, and over 300 people wrote letters before prayer meeting was over," he pointed out.

Baptists statewide have more at stake than many realize. Almost 7,100 people from across Mississippi and the nation attended various programs and activities at Gulfshore in the summer of 1993 alone, according to figures reported recently by the assembly's administration.

Mississippi Gaming Commission
P.O. Box 23577
Jackson, MS 39225-3577
(601) 359-5700

Executive Director
Paul Harvey

Commissioners
Stuart C. Irby (Chairman)
Bill Gresham, Jr.
Robert C. Ingram

"This is not just a Gulf Coast issue. If you're from north Mississippi and your church sends its youth group to Gulfshore every year, this has grave impact on you and your church. You may live 250 miles from the nearest casino, but your children are going to be exposed whether you like it or not," he explained.

Opposition has also come from a non-denominational group of area residents who have formed Concerned Citizens to Protect the Isles and Point.

The land around the assembly is known locally as Henderson Point.

Casino critics have built their case on a number of factors:

— The Harrison County Board of Supervisors, in whose jurisdiction the casino would be located, voted unanimously on Oct. 25, 1993, not to endorse the casino proposal.

Their solidarity, however, carries no legal weight before MGC, which has sole authority to approve casino sites in Mississippi.

— The casino will destroy the residential nature of the neighborhood, where a restaurant and a convenience store are about the only commercial ventures in the area.

— Traffic along Highway 90, a crucial hurricane evacuation route that will feed gamblers to the proposed site, has several treacherous turns and is already congested to a dangerous level.

— Construction of the casino, including an artificial lagoon in which the casino will float, will wreak environmental destruction.

Jones warned that there is no legal mechanism by which casino approval can be rescinded once MGC gives the green light.

"We have to win this battle at the state gaming commission level. Gulfshore is the largest religious assembly in the state; are there no areas that can be casino-free?" he asked.

As their first crop nears maturity, farmers in the Zimbabwean village of Beit Bridge proudly inspect the results of their newly-acquired skills in raising sorghum. Thanks to the Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership Project, local farmers are learning modern production techniques that enable them to work toward self-sufficiency.

State Baptists push, but...

Alcohol warning proposal off Senate docket for now

By William H. Perkins Jr.

The SAFE Act died quietly on May 17.

The Sensible Advertising and Family Education Act (S. 674), which would have required rotating safety warning messages on alcohol advertisements, was scheduled for a vote that day when the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee met.

Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-SC) asked to cancel the tally, however, when he concluded that he did not have the 10 "yes" votes needed to move the bill out of committee.

"The powerful broadcasters and brewers, among other industry lobbies, succeeded in forcing key senators to knock the bill off this year's legislative agenda," said George Hacker of the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

Hacker serves as co-chair of the Coalition for the Prevention of Alcohol Problems in Washington, D.C., along with Sarah Kayson of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence.

Kayson said the group was disappointed that the Commerce Committee chose not to vote on the issue, which means no official record was made of each senator's position on SAFE.

"We were thrilled by the solid support Coalition members provided in generating calls and faxes to committee members during the days prior to the scheduled vote. There is little doubt that your hard work made many senators feel extremely reluctant to vote against SAFE," she said. The Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission is a member of the Coalition's steering committee.

Paul Jones, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Christian Action Commission, issued a call May 12 to the state's Baptists to contact Mississippi Sen. Trent Lott, a member of the Commerce Committee, about his vote on the SAFE Act.

Bruce Lott, spokesman for Sen. Lott in Washington, said he did not know the senator's position on the bill but would find out. He had not called with the answer by the deadline for publication.

"A large number of people contacted Sen. Lott, which convinced me that Mississippi Baptists are definitely in favor of alcohol safety warnings," Jones said.

Thurmond said he plans to bring up the issue again next year.



The Candidates

Reconciliation possible in SBC, Jim Henry says

By Jack Brymer

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — Avoiding denominational politics and the term inerrancy, Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., has offered himself as a candidate for Southern Baptist Convention president, setting forth four "presidential principles" that would guide his efforts.

Henry, in an interview with the **Florida Baptist Witness** newsmagazine, offered an assessment of the state of the SBC and, asked if there is hope for reconciliation in the beleaguered convention, declared emphatically, "If I didn't, I certainly would not be available and doing everything I can to help us move ahead."

In his March 27 announcement that he would be a nominee for president of the SBC, he said he would not have a structured campaign but would "trust the Holy Spirit to speak to the hearts and minds of my brothers and sisters in Christ as they choose their leadership for the near future."

Since that time, he said he has refused all speaking engagements which might promote his candidacy and is adamant the decision to offer himself is strictly his own and not the result of any group.

Henry has been mentioned for several years as a potential presidential candidate and for good reasons. His church has led the SBC in Cooperative Program giving the last three years. Last year, the church forwarded 13% (\$894,805) of its undesignated gifts of \$6.85 million to national and international missions causes through the Cooperative Program.

In the first of four "presidential principles," Henry said he would be "uncompromising on the high view of Scripture as stated in our Baptist Faith and Message Statement and Peace Committee Report and adopted and affirmed by SBC messengers and as established in our Baptist heritage."

Asked if that means inerrancy, Henry replied "yes," but said other words could be used as well.

"For some, inerrancy has become a bad word, so to speak, but I don't necessarily think it is," he said. "I think what we are looking for and have said we want to continue is our historic Baptist commitment to Scripture as fully trustworthy and authoritative. You can use the words infallible, inerrant, or high view of Scripture — however you want to say it."

Henry's second "presidential principle" is to be "unapologetic of our historic focus on missions and evangelism and its strong support through the Cooperative Program."

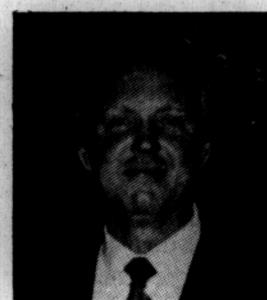
Asked if that excludes the Baptist moderates' Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Henry responded: "If the CBF wants to give money to SBC causes without any strings attached, to me that's no problem. Now, if it had strings attached, then I would (have a problem). I would not receive them."

In his third "presidential principle" Henry said he would be "unselfish in including all whose hearts beat with our denomination in expanding the window of opportunity for service and input."

Asked if that would include "moderates" and members of the CBF in the convention, Henry said it would under certain conditions.



Henry



Wolfe

Of CBF, he also said, "My feeling about the CBF is it's basically a denomination right now. They've done everything but said that. And so I don't think that there is going to be a return to the major body of the SBC. That's my gut feeling."

Henry's fourth "presidential principle" is to be "untiring in our effort to build trust and love in our family of faith." During the last 14 or 15 years, he said, some people — both moderates and conservatives — have labeled other people and this has led to misunderstandings and distrust. As a result, many have been pushed aside or ignored.

Henry discounted claims that his election would impede or change the direction of the "conservative resurgence."

Henry said he did not believe the SBC is divided beyond reconciliation.

"I know there are some serious divisions and you can't gloss over that," he said. Yet, "I'm hearing a real deep desire for reconciliation, for getting together, and moving ahead. I hear a hunger for that. I may be misreading it, but I hear that hunger and to me that's a sign of hope. There's discouragement, but not despair."

As to the future, Henry said he sees the SBC on the verge of either a slow disintegration or on the edge of a fresh, bold new reach into the future.

"I think God has used us," he said, describing the SBC as the strongest denomination in the country. "The talent and resources of our lay people and in our institutions is unbelievable. If it can be recaptured, I think it (SBC) will live. If not, then I think we will die a slow death."

Henry said he believes there is a way to overcome the losses and retain the gains of the past decade of controversy in the SBC.

The losses, he said, are some fragmentation and a loss of trust at some levels. "I've been guilty and I guess everybody probably has, if they are honest, of labeling people and maybe not being fair which has created distrust," he said. "To me, that is a loss of camaraderie and a sense of oneness and warm fellowship."

The "prime gain" of the decade, he said, was to re-establish or see that the SBC stand by the historic stand of its Baptist forefathers on the Scriptures.

"That, to me, was the main purpose of the movement," he said. "That's what I understood it to be and that was my biggest concern in it and, I think, for most Southern Baptists. I think that has been established for this generation."

"Okay, that battle is won. Let's move ahead," he said. "I think we'll see a lot of people come back and an upkick in the Cooperative Program. I think we'll reach to a new excitement again as Southern Baptists. That's my dream and prayer."

After his ordination in 1960, Henry served churches in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee before moving to Orlando in 1977 as pastor of First Church.

Brymer is editor, FLORIDA BAPTIST WITNESS.

Wolfe takes heart of conservative to election

By Mark Baggett

MOBILE, Ala. (BP) — At heart, he's a Wolfe who loves his flock.

"I am called to be a pastor," says Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala. "I see my role to equip the saints, and I devote my energies to discipling and enabling Christians."

Wolfe's attitude — what his friends say is a sincere, self-effacing, conciliatory spirit — and his loyalty to the conservative resurgence in the Southern Baptist Convention have placed him as a consensus choice among most of the "conservative leadership" and past presidents for the SBC presidency this year.

Certainly, Wolfe, 56, has paid his dues. Before 1979, he was active in the network of conservatives. Since 1987, he has been an influential member of the SBC Executive Committee, this year becoming its chairman.

At the same time, his church has grown dramatically since he came as pastor in 1972, to a membership of 9,000, an average worship attendance of 2,600 and a budget of \$4.27 million.

He is a popular revival and pastors conference preacher and has produced a cottage industry of vocational ministers out of his church. One estimate places the number of Wolfe-mentored vocational ministers at over 100, including 12 pastors in

Alabama and at least 15 more in other states. John Turner, pastor of First Church, Lucedale, and one of his protegees, says Wolfe "has a heart for preachers."

Does Henry's candidacy signal a division within the ranks of SBC leaders?

"I don't think there's any split," says Wolfe. "In Indianapolis (at the 1992 SBC annual meeting), Nelson Price, a high-profile conservative pastor, ran against (current president) Ed Young. It's happened before. Here's a man, Jim Henry, who feels compelled to run."

The two candidates are similar theologically and their churches have been models of church growth, but Wolfe acknowledges a difference in Cooperative Program giving. Henry's church gives approximately 13% of its undesignated receipts, a figure that Wolfe compliments. Wolfe's church gives approximately 5% presently. According to the Uniform Record published by the Alabama State Convention for September 1993 (the latest records), Cottage Hill gave \$199,681 of its undesignated gifts of \$4.217 million, or 4.7%, up from 4.5% the previous year and 4.2% the year before that.

"The conservative leadership now feels that what we have prayed and hoped for is now a reality. Southeastern Seminary, for example, has turned to conservative leadership; Southern Seminary, under Al Mohler, will certainly take a conservative direction. The Christian Life Commission, as another example, has taken conservative political positions, especially on the abortion issue. We have upheld and confirmed the high view of Scripture."

So, after dropping out of Southeastern and pastoring for three years, Wolfe entered Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, and studied under the "wonderful" influences of Roy Fish, Virtus Gideon, and Cal Guy.

Besides his troubled year at Southeastern, Wolfe has had one other experience in the ministry that approached a crisis. In 1979, after seven years at Cottage Hill, he went to the First Church, Lubbock, Texas, in December 1979. Shortly after arriving in Lubbock, he could feel something was wrong.

"After three months, even though the people there were loving and gracious and the church was growing, I realized that I wasn't supposed to be there, that I'd missed the Lord's will on it," Wolfe recounts. "At the same time, one of the members of the pulpit committee at Cottage Hill called me and said they weren't getting anywhere. I told the committee I would consider going back, but only if they were unanimous in seeking God's will."

Wolfe returned to Cottage Hill in June 1980, "a painful decision for the church in Lubbock and for me," and was accepted back by Cottage Hill by a 1,620-20 vote.

"I am thankful for the conservative resurgence," he said in his sermon. "I make no apologies as one who is privileged to be on the inside with the leaders God has used to bring God back to this denomination. And I can tell you that they know who the head is. The desire of our hearts these days is not to please the press, but it is the desire to please him."

Baggett writes for THE ALABAMA BAPTIST.

CONVENTION-RELATED EVENTS

A listing of groups meeting in conjunction with the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention

African American Fellowship: June 12-13; Tangelo Park Church, Orlando, and Orlando Marriott. For more information, contact Dennis Mitchell, organization's secretary and pastor of Central Church, Montgomery, Ala., (205) 284-4548.

Associational Directors of Missions Conference: June 12-13, Orlando Marriott. Six DOMs will address the theme, "Minister, Manager, Missionary." Other speakers include Larry Lewis, Home Mission Board; Paul W. Powell, Annuity Board; and R. Albert Mohler, Southern Seminary, will lead a series of Bible studies.

Campus Ministers Meeting: June 10-12, Rollins College, Orlando. Richard Ross, one of the organizers of the "True Love Waits" campaign, will discuss today's youths and how they will affect college ministry in the future.

Chaplains Meeting: June 13, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Orlando's Navy Training Center. Theme: "Evangelical Chaplaincy in the Post-Christian Era." For more information or to make a reservation, call HMB chaplaincy division, (404) 898-7445.

Chinese Baptist Fellowship Meeting: June 11-13; Harley Hotel, Orlando. Speakers include Jerry A. Rankin, Foreign Mission Board; James Williams, Brotherhood Commission; and Oscar Romo, Home Mission Board.

Church Music Conference: June 12-13; College Park Church, Orlando. Theme: "Together in Jesus." The program includes a panel discussion on "Innovative Music Ministry."

Evangelists Meeting: June 15, beginning at 1 p.m. Orange County Convention/Civic Center. Theme: "More than Conquerors: Spiritual Warfare in the Man, the Ministry, and the Marketplace." Speakers include E. V. Hill, Los Angeles; and Perry Neal, Montgomery, Ala.

Filipino Baptist Fellowship Meeting: June 16, 2-9:30 p.m., Neptune Road Church, Kissimmee, Fla.

Golden Gate Alumni Luncheon: June 15, 12:15 p.m., room 8A/B, Orange County Convention/Civic Center. For tickets, send \$14 to the Office of Alumni Relations, Golden Gate Seminary, Strawberry Point, Mill Valley, CA 94941.

Hispanic Fellowship Meeting: June 11-12, First Church of Pine Hills in Orlando. Activities include participation in "Cross Over Orlando" evangelistic outreach sponsored by the Home Mission Board.

Korean Baptist Fellowship Meeting: June 13-15, Orlando Howard Johnson.

Messianic Southern Baptist Fellowship Meeting: June 13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in Overflow Room of the convention center. Speakers include Sam Keller, staff member of "Focus on the Family."

Midwestern Seminary Alumni Luncheon: June 15, Room 6A-B, Orange County Convention/Civic

Center. Advance tickets may be purchased for \$12 from seminary's Alumni Office, 5001 N. Oak St. Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64118 or for \$15 at seminary booth at SBC.

New Orleans Seminary Alumni & Friends Breakfast: June 15, 7:15 a.m., Orlando First Church fellowship hall. Tickets: \$6 before June 1, \$7.50 after June 1. Ticket sales at SBC will end at noon, June 14. Tickets available from seminary's Alumni Office, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.

New Work Banquet: June 13, Orlando Marriott Hotel. Speakers: Larry Lewis and Charles Chaney, both of the Home Mission Board.

Pastors Conference: June 12-13; Orange County Convention/Civic Center. Theme: "A Heart for God." Speakers include: Bobby Bowden, PSU football coach; Jerry Falwell, Lynchburg, Va.; Jack Kemp, secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President Bush.

Religious Education Association Meeting: June 11-13, Hyatt Orlando. Theme: CRO: Claiming Education Opportunities. Speakers include: Tony Campolo, Christian speaker and author; Dan Yeary, North Phoenix Church; Kenneth Cooper, founder, Cooper Clinic in Dallas; and Don Newbury, Howard Payne University.

Research Fellowship Meeting: June 11, noon-9 p.m., Howard Johnson University Hotel. Presentations on geo-demographic planning tool from Baptist Sunday School Board, and board's new Annual Church Profile, which replaces Uniform Church Letter. For information, call Clay Prince, Baptist General Convention of Texas, (214) 828-5138.

SBC Ministers' Wives Luncheon: June 14, 12 p.m.; Orlando Peabody Hotel; Anne Graham Lotz, speaker. Theme: "Joy in the Journey." Tickets are \$20 at the door, or can be ordered from Sherry Blankenship, P.O. Box 489, Paris, TX 75461.

Southeastern Seminary Alumni Luncheon: June 15, noon, Florida Rooms II and III of the Peabody Hotel, Orlando. Cost of luncheon is \$12. Children's menu available for \$6. Reservations available through Alumni Office at (919) 556-3101.

Southern Seminary Alumni & Friends Reunion Breakfast: June 15, 7:30 a.m., Peabody Hotel, Orlando. Tickets are \$8.50 in advance and \$10.50 at the convention. Tickets can be ordered from the office of Alumni Services and Giving, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280.

Southwestern Seminary Alumni Luncheon: June 15, 12:30 p.m.; Clarion Hotel-Orlando. Tickets may be purchased by sending \$13 to the Office of Institutional Advancement, P. O. Box 22000, Fort Worth, TX 76122.

WMU Annual Meeting: June 12-13; Orlando First Church (for most sessions). Theme: "Growing in Love." Theme interpretations will be led by Barbara Joiner of Columbiana, Ala.

Chapman asks to meet with Texas cooperative missions giving group

DALLAS (ABP) — At his request, Morris Chapman, president of the Executive Committee, was to meet with the Baptist General Convention of Texas' Cooperative Missions Giving Study Committee at its next meeting in Dallas, May 23, or the following meeting, June 8.

Chairman Cecil Ray said the committee has been polled and agreed to hear Chapman. The 22-member panel similarly heard from Ben Loring, pastor of First Church, Amarillo, at its April meeting. Loring made the motion at last fall's annual meeting asking that a committee be appointed to study how to enhance cooperative missions giving in Texas.

Ray said the committee had made good progress in exploring its options in addressing the assignment given it by the

convention.

"The committee has not determined its recommendations, even though some options have received favorable interest," he said. The committee, he added, expects to come up with a recommendation on schedule. Loring's motion asked that the committee report to the 1994 convention in Amarillo, Oct. 31-Nov. 1.

The committee expects to have a recommendation completed in time to present at the Aug. 18-19 meeting of the BGCT Administrative Committee and to the Sept. 13 meeting of the Executive Board, Ray said.

"A full release of the committee's proposal will be made to Texas Baptists by this date, likely through the *Baptist Standard*," he said.

SBC preacher's church won't have messengers

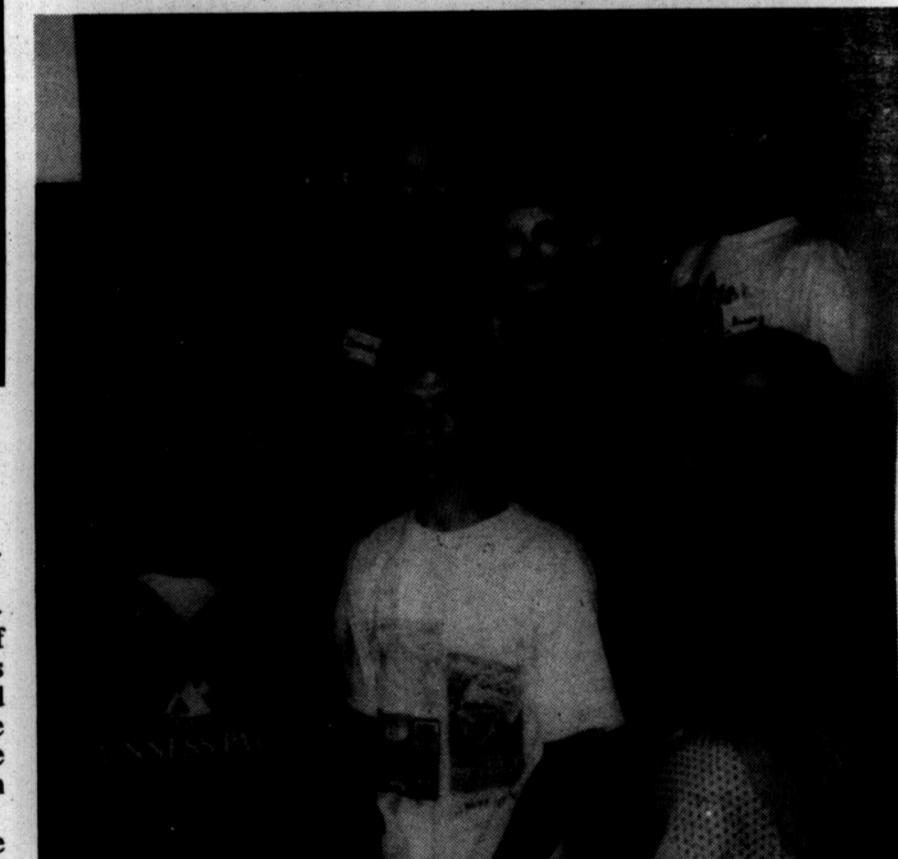
OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (ABP) — For the first time in memory, the annual sermon at the Southern Baptist Convention will be preached by a pastor whose church cannot send messengers to the annual meeting.

Bobby Boyles was pastor of First Church, Moore, Okla., last year when he was selected to preach the 1994 convention sermon.

Since that time, however, the

Moore church has split. Boyles resigned as pastor to start Eagle Heights Church, Oklahoma City, in February.

The SBC constitution allows representation only to churches which have been bona fide contributors to the convention's work during the previous year. For this year's convention, that record must be established between Sept. 30, 1992, and Oct. 1, 1993, said Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary.



"Mudding out"

Members of the Baptist Student Union at Pearl River Community College in Poplarville spent their spring break working disaster relief in West Alton, Mo., a community between the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers especially hard-hit by the 1993 flood. The group, which also served in a homeless food ministry at Fourth Church in St. Louis (above), included (first row, from left) Darla Baker, Monty Lowe, Donna Parker (second row, from left) BSU director Morris Baker, Rebecca Arthur, (third row, from left) Demetric Cooley, Jana Rayborn, Aaron Dell, (back row, from left) Kristen Beard, and Clay Herrin.

Dilday, trustees discuss severance

By Art Toalston

FORT WORTH (BP) — No agreement has been struck to modify conditions in the severance package for Russell H. Dilday Jr. stipulating his supportiveness of Southwestern Seminary, which he led 16 years until his firing March 9.

The severance package was voted by Southwestern trustees as part of their March 9 firing of Dilday.

Trustee chairman Ralph W. Pulley Jr., a Dallas attorney, described the severance package as "generous," and noted to *Baptist Press* it was "adopted by the board of trustees... (as) part of the motion to relieve Dr. Dilday of his duties. This is not something that he has to agree to."

But the package nevertheless is troublesome, Dilday told *Baptist Press*, because it can be arbitrarily

terminated by trustees.

At issue in the severance package — which Pulley estimated at \$400,000 in value and Dilday estimated as lower, without listing a specific dollar amount — are three conditions:

"a. To keep as his primary and ultimate purpose the well-being and good of SWBTS (the seminary) as an institution for training men and women for ministry and will let this be the basis for conferences, interviews, speeches, lectures, etc., in which he may be involved while drawing benefits from SWBTS;

"b. To refrain from any action or activity that may be deemed not in the best interests of SWBTS, specifically including (but without limitation) working with or promoting any entity not in harmony and cooperation with the Southern Bap-

tist Convention, while drawing benefits from SWBTS;

"c. Should the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of SWBTS deem that Dr. Dilday has not acted in good faith with regard to this agreement, the Committee may in its sole discretion terminate any benefits which have not been paid."

"There is no way I can move forward with plans for the future," Dilday said, "based on a provision that is so open to an arbitrary termination."

Saying the conditions affect decisions he must make about buying a house and securing new employment, he voiced hope that trustees would make revisions "to allow for fairness and some sense of security."

Toalston is BP news editor.



Gloria and Tom Thurman will vacate the First Church, Columbia, missionary home this weekend for the fifth time since 1970. The couple is returning to Bangladesh where they serve as Southern Baptist missionaries. (Photo by Teresa Dickens)

Maine-Mississippi connection made

PERRY, Maine (BP) — In this sleepy little New England town halfway between the equator and the North Pole, it's not uncommon to find Roger and Marge Asselin inside their small business trailer, using a high-speed duplicating machine to make hundreds of copies of audiocassette tapes.

They pack them in envelopes and mail them to people across the country — to a mother in Utah whose daughter is experimenting with drugs or a parent in California concerned about problems in local schools.

The tapes are copies of "The

24-Hour Counselor" audiocassettes produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Counseling resources for youths and their parents, they feature information, advice, and support from leading Christian counselors on a number of contemporary issues such as self-esteem, alcohol abuse, suicide, loneliness, teenage pregnancy, depression, and sexual abuse.

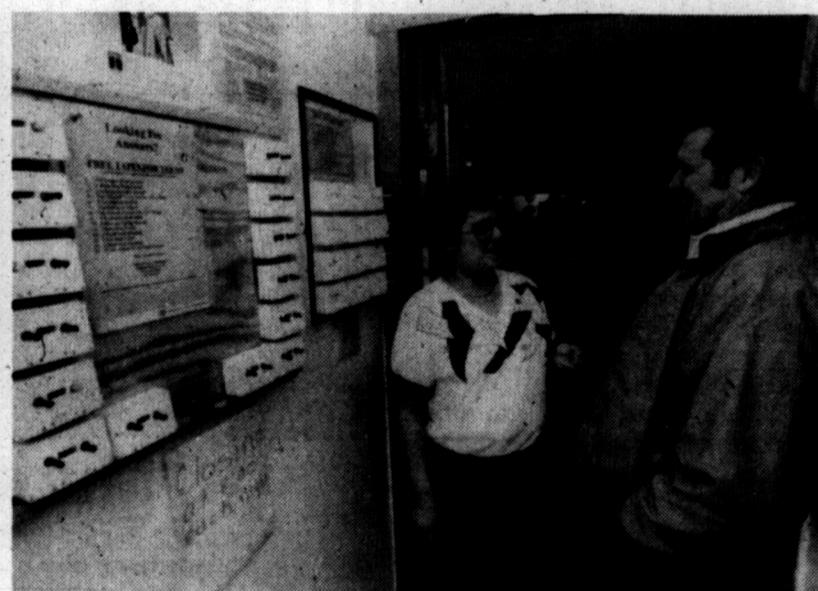
"These tapes are a wonderful ministry tool; they really work. Kids out there are hungry for help and the tapes are a good way to help meet their needs," said Roger, a bivocational minister and

founding member of the Bible and Prayer Educational Association, a nondenominational evangelical ministry based in Washington County, Maine.

The Asselins' interest in "The 24-Hour Counselor" was piqued last year when Roger read an article in *The New England Baptist* newspaper about a youth minister in Mississippi who had placed a display board of the counseling tapes in a local restaurant. Within a short time, the Asselins had a similar board in place at Happy Landings, a family owned seaside restaurant in nearby Eastport.



Roger Asselin (left photo) and Marlon Brown enjoy a walk outside the Happy Landings restaurant in Eastport, Maine. Following the lead of Southern Baptist youth minister Don Lum in Columbia, Asselin placed display boards inside the restaurant containing counseling tapes for youths and their parents. The project



has attracted national attention, generating similar ministries across the United States. Happy Landings owner Brown (right photo) talks with Asselin near the two display boards of counseling tapes produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board. (BP photos by Jim Veneman)

Missionary couple hits "home stretch" in a lifetime of service

By Teresa Dickens

Tom and Gloria Thurman return to Bangladesh at the end of this month for their last term there as Southern Baptist missionaries. And it's easy to see it is something they dread.

Dread, not in the sense that they do not want to go back, but rather it will not be easy for them to leave Bangladesh in four years.

One can easily understand the Thurmans' attachment to Bangladesh and its people. They have lived there 28 years. Both of their sons — Philip and David — were born and grew up there. The Thurman family has not just sojourned in Bangladesh since Dec. 7, 1965; they have made it their home.

The Thurmans' missionary service and relationship with the Bangladeshi is detailed in the book, *Gloria!*, published by Woman's Missionary Union. Written by Barbara Joiner, the book tells the Thurman family story from Gloria's perspective. It highlights Gloria's various ministries among the Bangladeshi and the family's homelife.

Joiner also includes biographical information on Tom and Gloria (he grew up in Arm, Miss.; she, in south Alabama), as well as testimonies of their individual

calls to missions, and their meeting, courtship, and marriage. *Gloria!* is available through WMU or the Jackson Baptist Book Store, (601) 977-9676.

Now Tom and Gloria face writing the final chapter in the history of their missionary service. What does a missionary couple do to prepare to leave their home of 28 (nearly 33 when they leave) years? How do they "wrap up" their missionary service?

The Thurmans have chosen to set for themselves individual goals.

Tom's work during the past 28 years has involved him in starting churches and serving as a "director of missions" to churches in the southern region of the country.

One of his more recent projects has been coordinating the construction of a camp facility for Baptists in the region to use as a training center. So far, one building has been completed on a three-acre tract of land owned by the churches.

Tom's goal for his last term is to finish a second phase of construction on the campground. The project would include the construction of separate men's and women's dormitories joined by a kitchen-dining area. The current

building then would be used as conference space.

Gloria's goal is equally challenging. Throughout their missionary service, Gloria has involved herself in a variety of ministries. One has been her work with the national women — Woman's Missionary Union in the U.S. During her last term, Gloria hopes to complete a three-year syllabus — planbook in WMU terms — for the women to use. The syllabus would include proposed Bible studies, mission projects, and emphases that could be expanded by the women.

Although the Thurmans know it will be emotionally difficult for them to leave their family of friends in Bangladesh, they feel good about what they are leaving behind.

"What we went to do in Bangladesh will go on whether we are there or not," said Tom. "We have many strong, capable leaders in Bangladesh, and we are confident the work will continue long after we are gone."

When the Thurmans return to the States in 1998, they will live in the missionary home owned by First Church, Columbia, while making plans for a permanent home.

with 24-hour counselor

"It's a good way to give help because it's confidential," Asselin said.

"But I have to be honest," Asselin said. "I really never figured we'd have the results we've had. But once we put up the board,

we couldn't keep up with the demand (for tapes)."

Asselin said more than 2,300 tapes (more than the town's population of 1,965) have been distributed since the board was placed in the restaurant in May 1993.

Display board's popularity brings smiles to Columbia

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Don Lum is more than a little awed that his unique plan for reaching young people has reached Maine.

Lum, minister of youth and activities at First Church, Columbia, originated the idea of placing youth counseling tapes on a display board at a local restaurant called The Deck. The story was highlighted by Baptist Press and distributed nationwide, which explains how Roger and Marge Asselin came to place a similar display board in a Maine restaurant.

"We're very fortunate that God has blessed this (idea). For me, it is very humbling that God could use this to reach people we don't even know. We'll meet them in heaven," Lum said.

The Deck is owned by Waddell and Joan Stewart, members of North Columbia Church in Columbia.

"We've gotten calls from all over since the article came out. People want to know the dimensions of the display board so they

can make one," Waddell Stewart said.

The Stewarts placed the tape display just inside the front entrance of their restaurant to provide maximum exposure.

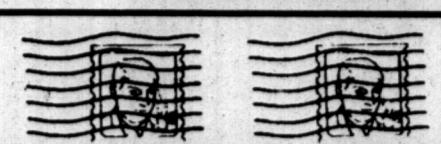
"That puts a lot of traffic walking by the board, especially on Friday and Saturday nights. They have to see it," he pointed out.

Stewart said Lum stocks the display board with his business cards so young people can call the church to find out more about Christianity and their salvation. He also stressed that he wouldn't hesitate to "shut down" whatever he's doing at the restaurant to witness to youth who might question him.

"It works real good," Stewart pointed out.

Lum said nearly 3,900 tapes have been distributed from The Deck location since the project got underway in December of 1989.

The project is funded by First Church, Columbia, and has expanded to include a display board of adult tapes near a second entrance at The Deck.



Letters to the editor

Stop promoting CBF

Editor:

Thank you for your untiring efforts in praising and promoting the CBF (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship). The fruits of your labor are division, discouragement, and disappointment among many in the local church. With all the good things that are happening in Mississippi Baptist churches, it is hard to understand why the CBF deserves so much attention.

As a pastor, I used to look forward to receiving **The Baptist Record** each Friday. It would thrill my soul as I would read articles at how God was using Southern Baptists to reach Mississippi and the world. I felt a sense of unity with other Southern Baptists. During those "dry" weeks that all preachers experience, it was always encouraging to read in **The Baptist Record** of classmates and friends who were experiencing times of refreshing from God. As I rejoiced with my brothers over their victories it seemed to make my week a little more tolerable. Reading **The Baptist Record** brought great satisfaction over God using the Cooperative Pro-

gram, missions, and evangelism for his glory. I write with regret that I no longer get the sense of unity, encouragement, and satisfaction that I used to on Fridays. Maybe I have changed. Maybe **The Baptist Record** has changed.

I was glad that you printed Cecil Sherman's "Response to O.S. Hawkins regarding the virgin birth" (May 12, p. 10). Thanks to his article, I am convinced that the CBF is not for me. I would never call Cecil Sherman a liberal because I do not know the man. But, I would never align myself with any person who would hesitate to fire any professor drawing Baptist money who does not believe in the virgin birth of Jesus.

I really do love you in the Lord. I'm torn between two choices. I don't know whether to read **The Baptist Record** or just file it in the circular file. If **The Baptist Record** is going to continue to be an ABP/CBF promo, then I know the choice I will make.

Everett Childers, pastor
New Prospect Church
Oxford

Editor's Note: The ratio of articles in **The Baptist Record** is about SBC, 8 to CBF, 2. We do

not promote the CBF. We do report it when it makes the news. The CBF is still a part of the SBC.

Another view

Editor:

I always read with interest everything (the editor) writes. And, frankly, about 90% of the time, I agree with his positions! Even when I disagree, as in the case of his editorial on May 19 ("Mid-stream, deep water Baptists"), I appreciate the spirit in which he writes. He makes me think through my positions carefully.

The editorial takes Cecil Sherman to task for his statement about the need to take sides in the SBC controversy. (Sherman) contends that, not to do so, is like letting grandma get knocked down and her purse stolen at the shopping mall, and not take her side. (The editor) doesn't see any way that can be applicable to our denominational situation. I do. Good people have been getting hurt for a decade and a half, just because they could not in conscience agree with the agenda of those who "went for the jugular." Not to take sides, it seems to me, is to say that

is okay.

I think my real difference with the editorial has to do with what is meant by taking sides. I don't think (Sherman) meant that one has to join (the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship) in order to take sides. I am actively involved in CBF, because it gives me a way to be positive about what I deeply believe. But I am not under any illusion that only those who participate in CBF (or the Alliance) are taking their stand. I know several young pastors, for instance, who could not possibly lead their churches at this point to participate in such organizations, but who courageously have opposed what they believe to be oppressive tactics by the powers that be. And the editor has taken such stands, lovingly but firmly. He has not chosen to become a part of CBF. That, however, does not make him unconcerned when "grandma" gets beat up!

On the main point of the editorial, I agree. We need to keep our focus on knowing Jesus. If I am more interested in the moderate movement or the conservative resurgence or staying out of the fight than I am in knowing and serving the Lord Christ, it will matter little to the kingdom whether my position prevails. And I must be willing to reach out to my sisters and brothers to the left and the right of me and live peacefully with them, as much as it lies in me, whatever positions I take on particular issues.

Dick Allison, pastor
University Church
Hattiesburg

Denying the truth

Editor:

Barton First Church, Marshall Association, has experienced dramatic growth during the past 18 months. Over 200 people have made decisions for Christ and over 130 have been baptized into the church. Sunday School attendance has grown from 45 to over 100; church training has more than tripled.

At the present time, we are in need of a church bus. If a church has one for sale, please send the necessary information to: Barton First Baptist Church, Pastor John McMullen, Rt. 5, Box 117, Byhalia, MS 38611; telephone (601) 895-2306.

John McMullen, pastor
Barton First Church
Byhalia

Uplifted by article

Editor:

I am writing to thank you for using our True Love Waits news article in the May 12 issue of **The Baptist Record**. I am a native Mississippian (First Church, Senatobia), and I was pleasantly surprised to see the article while visiting my folks last week. We handed out over 5,000 commitment cards to high school and junior

high students in the parish through our presentation. We did receive every conceivable response to our presentation; however, it was overall incredibly positive. Over 2,400 cards were turned in signed, and as we did our follow up, more students came up and asked if they could still sign a commitment card, or if it was too late. One of the interesting observations that I made was that some of the students who seemed to be disruptive during our presentations in the schools turned in the cards signed. They bought the message, but did not want anyone to know. I believe that the impact of the True Love Waits message this summer through the displaying of the cards in Washington and the continued positive coverage that the various media outlets have given will help show teens that abstinence is an investment in the future. It will be an impact not soon forgotten. Thank you for your help.

David Spencer
Minister of youth/music
Bayou Vista Church
Morgan City, La.

Thanks for prayers

Editor:

My family and I want to express our sincere and heartfelt appreciation for remembering us during my time of illness. My heart seems to be improving slowly. I am able to work about five to six hours a day. I still have to limit my schedule and will not be taking any extra trips this year.

I wish I could write personally every church or every person in Mississippi that prayed for me, and many of them have sent cards and letters to tell me that they have. But I know that is impossible so I hope you will take this note as a big thanks to all of you. I enjoy working in Tennessee but much of my heart is back in Mississippi with the friends I have worked with over the years. You are very special to us.

Our association (Riverside) has been wonderful. They have all pitched in and helped us get ready for the World Mission Conference and other things that needed to be done. Our work has not missed a step in spite of my sickness.

Thanks to a wonderful group of Christians and come see us if you have opportunity.

Ken McMullen
Director of missions
Riverside Association
Livingston, Tenn.

Devote time to Christ

Editor:

What would happen if all the Masons, Lions, Shriners, the Elks, etc., devoted their efforts to the cause of Christ and his church?

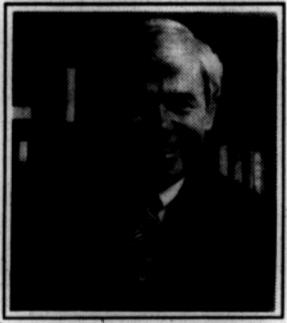
The church needs to provide a quality, challenging organization that will attract all this talent and energy.

Tom Littlejohn
Crystal Springs

The First Family invites you to ...

A Non Conventional Sunday!

First Baptist Church Orlando, Florida



Jim Henry, Pastor

June 12, 1994

Identical Schedules

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Worship Services

Message By Pastor Jim Henry

No Adult Sunday Schools

Sunday Schools For Birth Through 6th Grade

Student Rallies Grade 7 Through College

With Graham Kendrick and Jay Strack



Jay Strack



Graham Kendrick

Just for the Record



First Church, Bude, has begun a new mission Sunday School at the Fox Run Apartments. Vance Woodcock (above, left) is one of the teachers in the Sunday School. With him are (left to right) Jeremy Hawley, Ebony Bailey, Troy Smith, and Regina Holmes.

Center Terrace Church, Canton, will have Old Fashioned Day June 5. Sunday School will be held at 9 a.m. with high attendance day. Worship will begin at 10:30 a.m. A children's musical will be presented following a noon covered dish luncheon. Jerry T. Hood is pastor.

The Gospel Messengers will be in concert at Mt. Zion Church homecoming, Crystal Springs, May 29 at 1 p.m.; and at Emmanuel Church, Pearl, May 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Terry Road Church, Jackson, will celebrate its sixth anniversary May 29. Jack Nazary, former pastor of West Jackson Church, will be the guest speaker. A noon lunch will be served.

The 1994 Southern Christian Writers Conference workshop will be held June 10-11 at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala. **Deborah Brunt of Corinth**, author of three books and more than 100 magazine articles and devotionals, will be one of the speakers. Her book **Things Fail, People Fall** was featured in **Home Life** in February. The keynote speakers will be Mike Yorkey, editor of **Focus on the Family**



The Grenada Association's Executive Committee paid tribute to **Art Leslie and his wife Willie**, on their 50th wedding anniversary. Leslie has been director of missions for the association since 1986. Leslie was commended for untiring sacrifice and service by the leaders of the association as they expressed their love and appreciation.

magazine, one of the nation's two largest religious periodicals, and Patricia Sprinkle, an author of mystery novels and how-to-books. For more information, contact SCWC, P.O. Box 1106, Northport, AL 35476; phone (205) 333-8603.

First Church, Newton, will celebrate 125th anniversary

First Church, Newton, will celebrate its 125th anniversary June 5. The church has adopted the theme, "Forever Serving... Forever Faithful."

A high attendance day will be observed for Sunday School,

which begins at 9:45 a.m., followed by the morning worship.

A potluck lunch will be served at noon. A special program at 1:30 in the sanctuary will follow the luncheon.

Frank Harmon is pastor.

Staff Changes

Johnny Coaker has been called as pastor of Johnson Creek Church, State Line.

First Church, McLain, has called **Dean Stewart** as pastor. He has already moved on the field.

Maxwell Price has been called to Mt. Moriah Church in Calhoun County.

Jack Roberts has been called to Victory Church in Calhoun County.

Gulf Gardens Church, Gulf Coast Association, has called **Steve King** as pastor. He will be moving from Dallas, Ga.

Woolmarket Church, Gulf Coast Association, has called **Steve Wood** as minister of music.

Homecomings

Johnson Creek, State Line: May 29; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; special singing by Harvest Quartet, Forest, following lunch.

Friendship, Brookhaven: May 29; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds at noon; afternoon service following lunch; Roy Humphrey, Dodson, La., guest speaker.

Roundaway (Sunflower): May 29; program, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch, noon; Randall O'Brien, speaker; Eddie Donahoe, music; Gayden Harrell, pastor.

Galilee (Copiah): May 29; worship, 11 a.m.; noon fellowship meal; Talmadge Smith, Copiah-Lincoln director of missions, guest speaker; Wayne McGee, music.

Rock Hill, Brandon: May 29; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Russell Naron, Chilhowie, Va., former pastor, guest speaker; lunch, noon; afternoon program by the Dulcimers (The Pearl Strings); Tim Canterbury, pastor.

Arlington, Bogue Chitto: May 29; 11 a.m., worship; covered dish lunch, noon; 1:30 p.m. singing; Kent Campbell, former pastor, Foxworth, guest speaker; Clay Campbell, Smithdale, and the

Jim Henry's father dies

NASHVILLE (BP) — James W. Henry, father of Orlando, Fla., pastor Jim Henry, died in Nashville May 22 following complications after heart surgery.

Services were May 25 at Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, is a candidate for president of the Southern Baptist Convention which meets in annual session in Orlando June 14-16.

Correction

The May 19 issue reported in the "Staff Changes" section that Glenn Coulter had resigned as youth minister of Hepzibah Church, Silver Creek (Lawrence Association.) The item should have read, "Ken Barron has resigned as youth minister of Hepzibah."

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Men's Quartet of Arlington, music; Wilson Winstead, interim pastor.

Peach Creek, Pleasant Grove: May 29; 145th anniversary; Charles Page, former pastor during the 1980s, guest speaker for morning service; old-fashioned dinner on the grounds; afternoon gospel music; Kendall H. Easley, pastor.

Mt. Gilead, Blue Springs: May 29; services begin at 10 a.m.; dinner at noon; Witness Quartet and the Gospel Express of Pontotoc, guest singers; Johnny McCullough, pastor.

Heucks Retreat, Brookhaven: May 29; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds at noon; afternoon memorial service; Tim and Mary Moak, Byram, special music; Donnie South, pastor, speaker for the day; Farron Smith, Byram, guest pianist.

Interstate, Cleveland: June 5; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; Riley Harper, Greenville, mini-concert in 1:30 p.m. service; Grady Goodman, Jackson, Ala., guest speaker; Robert Haney, pastor.

Duffee (Newton): May 29; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship,

11; C.H. Melton, guest speaker; lunch in fellowship hall; afternoon singing with the Barnacastles and the Hedgepeths; John West, pastor.

Calvary, New Augusta: June 5; services, 10 a.m.; covered dish on grounds at noon; 1 p.m. singing; G.B. Reed, former pastor, Silas, Ala., guest speaker.

Cecil Roberson dies in Meridian

Retired Southern Baptist missionary Cecil Roberson, 83, died May 15 in his hometown of Meridian, after a long battle with cancer.

Roberson went to Nigeria in 1946 to teach at the Baptist college in Iwo. He and his wife, the former Marie Coats of Meridian, were appointed missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board in 1949. He advised Nigerian Baptist churches, promoted religious education and evangelism, trained leaders, and distributed Christian literature until he took medical retirement in 1969.

He was a graduate of Mississippi College and the University of Mississippi. He worked as a teacher, school principal, pastor, and missionary in Louisiana and Mississippi before going to Nigeria.

He is survived by his wife and their son, Conrad.

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MORRISON CHAPEL Baptist Church of Cleveland, Miss., is seeking a part-time minister of music. If interested, please call (601) 843-2828.

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Clarke campus hosts 200 friends at '94 homecoming

Nearly 200 alumni, friends, former faculty, and staff of Clarke College gathered on the Clarke campus in Newton May 14 for Homecoming '94. They came from Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, New York, Colorado, and New Mexico.

Merrill Cassell of Philadelphia led in a singspiration and Cliff Estes, former pastor of Calvary Church, Newton, and now an evangelist from Shreveport, La., challenged the listeners.

Officers elected were Juanita West, president; Paul Lee, vice-president; Marian Thornton, secretary; Evelyn Williams, treasurer; J. B. Costilow, faculty advisor; and Rickey McKay, past-president. The association's officers also reported on a request for the establishment of an alumni building which will remain on the Clarke campus. This will provide a place for historical heritage as well as needed associational work.

William Carey College graduates 252 students

William Carey College awarded 252 degrees at its spring commencement on May 14 on the Hattiesburg campus. Degrees were conferred by James W. Edwards, president, who also delivered the challenge to the graduates. Candidates were presented by Larry Braidfoot, academic vice-president.

Two students received special recognition. Danielle Faler graduated number one in the class with a perfect 4.0 average. Robert E. Wallace received the J.E. Byrd Memorial Award as the most outstanding graduate in religion.

Faler, who is from Sumrall, majored in elementary education. As a member of the honors program of the college, her honors proposal in her junior year was selected the best submitted by students from all disciplines.

Wallace, who majored in religion with a minor in mathematics, is from Kokomo, Ind. He has been accepted into the graduate program in the department of religion of Baylor University, where he will do research in Hebrew and biblical backgrounds and history.

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Thursday, May 26, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Names in the News

Kerry Jackson has been commissioned to serve through the Mission Service Corps as a display artist in design services with the Home Mission Board. The Jackson native is the son of the late Claude Jackson and Mrs. Reba Jackson. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University and Southwestern Seminary, and a former member of Alta Woods Church, Jackson.



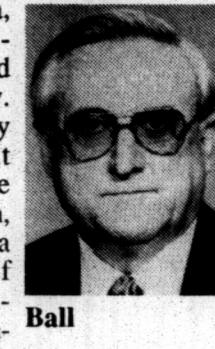
Jackson

Burlington, N.C.; five grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Millard L. Swinney has been endorsed to serve as volunteer chaplain of the City of Olive Branch Emergency Services. Swinney was ordained to the ministry in 1957 at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo. He and his wife have worked in the chaplain service at the V.A. Medical Center, Memphis, since 1982. He is

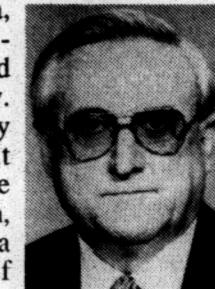
chaplain of the Ex-Prisoners of War Mid-South Chapter, Memphis; chaplain director for Area 1 of Mississippi chaplains; president of the District 1 bi-vocational ministers; vice president of state bi-vocational ministers, and assistant chaplain at Parkwood Hospital.

Ray Hodges, a recent graduate of New Orleans Seminary, was ordained by Midway Church, Meridian, to the gospel ministry on May 8. Hodges has been called to Crestview Church, Griffin, Ga., as minister of youth. W.B. Webb is pastor of Midway.



Swinney

Raymond A. Ball, minister of music and youth at Fairview Church, Selma, Ala., was recently ordained to the ministry. He formerly served at Woodville Heights Church, Jackson. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary.



Ball

Ben Hawkins of Rome, Ga., has been appointed dean of business at William Carey College, Hattiesburg. He has served as professor of economics and in administrative positions at Berry College in Rome since 1989.

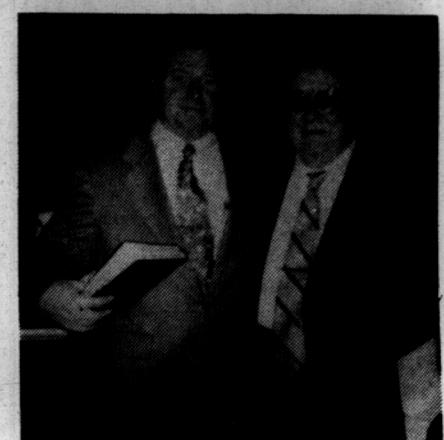
Eddie James has joined the staff of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. James, a Tupelo native, comes to MBMC as director of management engineering.

Maria Folmar, education coordinator at MBMC, was recently awarded the Distinguished Service Award for Excellence by the Mississippi Hospital Association Society for Hospital Education. She is a graduate of Auburn University in Alabama.

Kathy Wood was recently named director of records for MBMC. She is a graduate of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and previously worked in Alexandria, Va.

Nettie Mai Lewis and Preston Drew were chosen Senior Adults of the Year by First Church, Kosciusko, at its annual Senior Adult Day observance, May 1. Senior adults led in worship services and were honored with a luncheon. David Hulsey is minister of education.

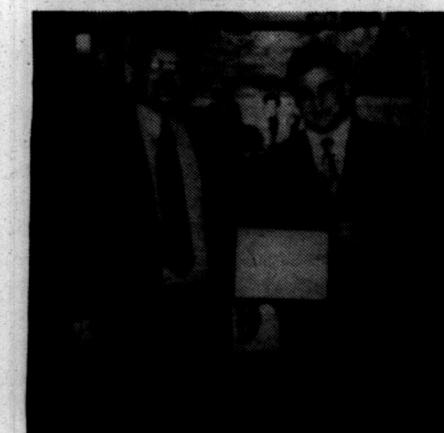
Elizabeth Draughon Yates, 87, widow of O.W. Yates, died May 17 in Louisville, Ky. She was a former assistant to the editor of The Baptist Record, a retired English teacher, church secretary, and director of religious education. She is survived by two stepdaughters, Culley Yates Enlow of Louisville, Ky., and Margaret Yates Mundie of Little Rock, Ark.; one sister, Emma Lewis of



Ernest J. Bond (right) was recently recognized by Silver Springs Church (Pike Association) for his 50 years of service to the congregation as a deacon. Also honored on the "Deacon Appreciation Day" were Jerry Bullock, Raymond Cade, and Mark Johnson. Bryon Wilkinson (left) is pastor.



Tommy Dewitt (right) was recently licensed to the ministry by Providence Church, Jayess. He was presented the license certificate by Mike Alexander (left), pastor.



Brent Rutland (right), son of Mr. and Mrs. Smith Rutland, was recently licensed to the ministry by Providence Church, Jayess. He was presented the license by Mike Alexander (left), pastor.

Shiloh marks 150th year

Shiloh Church, Big Creek, will celebrate its 150th anniversary June 4-5.

An old-time brush arbor service will be held June 4 at 6 p.m., with preaching by Jerry Jeffreys.

On June 5, Buford Usry of Calhoun City will be the guest speaker for the 10:30 a.m. worship. Highlights of the church's history will be presented, along with morning and afternoon programs. There will also be a noon "dinner on the grounds."

Anyone with information on the church's history should write Donna Cook, Rt. 2, Box 131, Cofeeville, MS 38922.

Billy Wells is pastor.

Revival Dates

Johnson Creek, State Line: May 29-June 3; 7 p.m.; Johnny Coaker, pastor.

Vacation Bible Schools

New Hope, Foxworth: May 30-June 3; 8:30-11:30 a.m.; family night, June 5, 7 p.m.

Stronghope (Copiah): May 30-June 3; 8:30-11:30 a.m.



HMB commissions Mississippians

Two Mississippi chaplains were commissioned recently by the Home Mission Board following a three-day orientation at the board's Atlanta office. Reid Whittington (left, with wife Judy) is a healthcare chaplain at East Mississippi State Hospital in Meridian. Lt. John Denton (right, with wife Beth) serves in Gulfport. The orientation was April 14-17, and the commissioning service was April 17 at First Church, Griffin, Ga. (HMB photo)

Church incorporation important; check it to prevent rude surprise

By Paul Griffin Jones II

Incorporation has been increasingly seen in the past decade as a desirable, additional level of protection for the church. The most important purpose of incorporation is to protect individual church members from personal liability for misconduct or negligence of other members.

Unfortunately, there appear to be many churches that have lost their corporate status.

This can occur for one or more reasons. The primary reason is the church was incorporated for a limited duration instead of a perpetual or indefinite term. For example, a church incorporated in 1960 for a term of 20 years.

Churches should check articles of incorporation to see if their incorporation was for a specific term. If it has expired, the church will need to take the action necessary to file a new application.

If the church was incorporated for a limited term that has not expired, the church should consider amending the articles of incorporation to reflect a perpetual term.

Secondly, a church can lose their corporate status under some circumstances by failing to adhere to changes in state law. It is good practice to secure the services of an attorney periodically to gain assurance that the church has met all current expectations and regulations.

A church can also check with the Corporation Division of the Secretary of State's office at P.O. Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205. Telephone: (601) 359-1350.

The Christian Action Commission (CAC) can assist churches who want more information on the process of incorporation. CAC can be contacted

at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.

Jones is executive director-treasurer, CAC.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

Should "time out" be the standard for discipline, or is it okay to spank your child?

Time out is excellent but should not be the only form of discipline used. Every parent needs an entire arsenal of tactics for disciplining children, and every child needs to know the consequences of misbehavior. Make the punishment fit the crime. Time out is taking time to get away from situations when children may be overstressed or overstimulated. It's the old philosophy of "counting to 10." This teaches our children to think before reacting as well as self-constraint in the face of selfishness. Spanking should be reserved for deliberate disobedience — when children know they have done wrong, or when other measures do not stop them. Time out can be successful when administered swiftly, consistently, and firmly. Let your "no" be your "no," and your "yes" be "yes."

My husband and I have demanding and fulfilling

careers, yet I am expected to take care of the house and children. I need help and can't get my husband to understand.

First, communicate your life priorities to each other — not when you are both tired but during a time of relaxation. Priorities are often assumed but not discussed, and without communication we never really know what the other person is thinking. Secondly, look carefully at what each partner is doing. Decide together if you can better juggle these responsibilities. Experiment and possibly trade chores for a week. Decide what you "can do," "enjoy doing," and "cannot do." If your children are older, how can they help out? Are there responsibilities others can assume that will help smooth the operation of the house? Finally, pray about your home. Unless the Lord builds it, it will fall. By committing to the Lord all aspects of your home — even mundane tasks — you show your children the values of prayer, responsibility, and working together.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: In time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Vines backs Wolfe, defends trustees

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Church in Jacksonville, Fla., and 1988-90 president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has reiterated his support for Fred Wolfe for SBC president in a May 15 mailing of his church newsletter to 8,000 pastors.

Vines also stated Southwestern Seminary trustees "have made a decision which, in my personal judgment, was long overdue" in firing Russell H. Dilday Jr. as president of the Fort Worth institution.

Vines noted three other former SBC presidents had authorized him to share that they also support Southwestern's trustees: Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis; Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church in Atlanta; and Bailey Smith, an Atlanta-based evangelist.

Vines did not specify whether the three men were endorsing Wolfe as SBC president.

In the newsletter, Vines did not review his reasons for supporting Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., who will be one of two nominees during the June 14-16 meeting for the post, the other being Jim Henry, pastor of First Church in Orlando, Fla., the convention's host city.

Asked in an interview with Baptist Press, he said, "I believe that Dr. Wolfe can best serve at this time to help us continue the conservative resurgence which

began in 1979. Dr. Wolfe and Dr. Henry are both personal friends of mine. It's not a matter of personality. It's a matter of conviction of completing the job that was started in 1979," the year of the first conservative victory in an SBC presidential election.

Nor did Vines elaborate in the newsletter on his belief that the termination of Dilday was "long overdue."

He told Baptist Press, "It's not a matter of personality. It's a matter of philosophy. The denomination has made it very clear the direction they want to go, and the trustees are just moving in that direction. I am a strong believer in the trustee system. I believe that's the only way to effectively carry on the activities of our agencies and institutions. If you're unhappy with the direction of those agencies and institutions, then the thing to do is elect trustees who will bring about the kind of positive things you desire."

In the newsletter, Vines also gave affirmation to Southern Bap-

tists' trustee system, stating: "Many, many years ago wise and godly people devised the trustee system. Trustees are elected to serve our denomination on the boards of our various institutions and agencies. The Southwestern trustees have made a decision which, in my personal opinion, was long overdue. We do not have access to all the information available to the trustees. Proverbs 18:13 says, 'He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.' I believe these people to be godly individuals. We must be willing to trust them to do what they feel is best for the institution and ultimately for God's work in the world."

Vines added: "In light of the wonderful things which have taken place at Southeastern Seminary (in North Carolina) as a result of changes brought about by the return of our Convention to a conservative position, I believe the days ahead for Southwestern Seminary are filled with promise."

Congress OKs FACE bill

WASHINGTON (BP) — Congress recently sent The Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act to the White House.

FACE makes a federal offense of the blockading of abortion clinics, as well as threats against women seeking abortions, vandalism of abortion clinics, and violence against clinic personnel. Pro-lifers, including many of those who oppose violence and who do not endorse the blockading of clinics, attacked FACE as a violation of free-speech rights. Pro-choice advocates supported it as necessary to protect abortion clinic workers and to ensure women have the right to obtain an abortion.

Both the Senate and House of Representatives easily passed a compromise version from a conference committee of members of both houses. On May 12, the Senate passed the conference report 69-30. The House approved it May 5 by a 241-174 vote.

President Bill Clinton has promised to sign the legislation.

"This is a major victory for pro-abortion forces and a crushing defeat for pro-life dissent in America," said James A. Smith, director of government relations for the Christian Life Commission. "The ramifications of this law will be tremendous and impact pro-life forces far beyond the 'rescue movement.'"

The Secret's Out!

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Lake Forest's Executive Director, Rich Malone, has previously

served as the Youth Minister at Parkway Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi, and for 10 years was the Chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference. All the staff at Lake Forest Ranch are committed to providing the "best Christian recreational retreats possible."

Lake Forest offers week long summer camps for Junior and Senior High youth, and even with the popularity of the camp, there are still a few great weeks available for this summer. They are June 19-25, July 17-23, July 24-30, July 31-Aug. 6. Call soon for more information.



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Uniform Challenged to love



By Doug Bain
Galatians 6

A major question for the careful student emerges after taking seriously Galatians 1-5. If we are to "stand therefore in that freedom with which Christ has made us free" (5:1), how is community life together to be stable and not fragmented? If believers are free, what gives a responsible shape to behavior and interaction?

Clues have been provided already: "Let the Spirit direct your lives, and you will not satisfy the desires of the human nature" (5:16). Galatians 5:22-23 reveals how the freedom of life in the Spirit is also a community-constructive life. Chapter 6 sketches out in more detail the shape of responsible community life for one who knows freedom in spirit and in the Spirit.

Real community (vv. 1-6). Could it be true that "only the Christian army shoots its wounded"? Could the other extreme also be true, that the wounded are sent straight back into battle without even first aid? Verse 1, full of truth about "dealing with the fallen," gives rise to additional insight. There is no place for being judgmental in dealing with the fallen. We are all fellow strugglers, all hungry beggars. None has the right to act better than others. Among post-graduation experiences for my students is the story of one who is currently in the "pen" and of another who is now tending bar. While we may weep at their lost opportunity for responsible servanthood positions, they are still "in the family" just like the others, in fact needing special attention.

What is it that "vocational Christian servants" do all day way up on the mountain in the rarefied atmosphere, in our "monasteries"? Frankly, we fall down and then we get up, fail and start over, miss the mark and repent, over and over, just like brother peasants in the village. The shortest poem is the truest — "All Fall," which means that everybody continues to fall short. However we deal with the fallen, it is not "from up above, but down with."

Verse 2 says "help carry one another's burdens," while verse 5 says "everyone has to carry his own load." The first means that we should help lift the oppressive pressure and suffering that a load can cause. The second, using a different word for burden, means that shared burden-bearing does not excuse us from the personal responsibility of our own obligations and duties.

Verse 6 does not appear to address directly the issue of bivocational pastoring. A church needs to make responsible provision for the pastor and his family but do so without immersing him in the affluent value system of this world.

The law of the harvest (vv. 7-8). Certainly God forgives, and yet behavior and choices and attitudes still have consequences. Restoration and reconciliation do not necessarily cancel out the law of the harvest. What we ask for is what we get. For the non-Christian, sowing in the field of ignoring God's call to salvation will reap a harvest of eternal death. For the Christian, sowing in the field of ignoring God's call to kingdom living will reap a harvest of spiritual immaturity and bondage (v. 8).

Sustained loyalty (vv. 9-10). The most desirable quality of a Christian may well be sustained loyalty. Keeping "the load" secured and moving until it is delivered means doing so "over the long haul," which is where loyalty counts in the Christian journey. If we do not give up, the time of harvest will finally arrive (v. 9).

The new humanity (vv. 14-16). Galatians here teaches about not boasting in worldly values, but about being crucified to worldly standards. As far as the world is concerned, we are to be "put to death," and thereby raised up to be a new creation (vv. 14-15, see 2 Cor. 5:17).

Grace for daily living (vv. 17-18). Paul is no "approval addict" but he would appreciate it if some would stay off his case. "Get off my back already — on my back are scars from abuse which show my loyalty to Christ." On a more negative note, Paul says that Christ has given him grace for bear in our lives the marks of sustained loyalty to the Savior, thereby embracing the "challenge to love!"

Bain is professor of biblical and related studies, Blue Mountain College.

Bible Book The Lord's Prayer



By Dan Howard
John 17

Early African converts to Christianity were earnest and regular in private devotions. Each one reportedly had a separate spot in the thicket where he would pour out his heart to God. Over time the paths to these places became well worn. As a result, if one of these believers began to neglect prayer, it was soon apparent to the others. They would kindly remind the negligent one, "Brother, the grass grows on your path."

Is the grass growing on the path to your place of prayer? Jesus demonstrated the importance of prayer throughout his ministry. John 17 records a prayer of Jesus which has been referred to as the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus. In this prayer Jesus prays for himself, his disciples, and future believers.

Jesus prays for himself (vv. 1-5). The posture of Jesus during this prayer is interesting. Verse 1 indicates that Jesus, having his eyes open and looking into the heavens, spoke this prayer. Jesus acknowledged to his Father that his hour had come, indicating his awareness that his death was imminent.

Jesus makes two requests for himself. The first request was, "Father... glorify thy Son." This was not for selfish reasons but that he (Jesus) could glorify the Father. What Jesus is asking is that the Father make known his (Jesus) innate glory and worth so that Jesus can reveal the glory of the Father.

Jesus' request to be glorified was in keeping with God giving him authority over all mankind. This authority was given so that Jesus could offer to all men eternal life. The eternal life offered is more than a length of time but it has to do with the quality of life. Eternal life is the highest quality of life one can live. It is obtained when one knows God and Jesus whom he sent in a personal way. Jesus was faithful to complete the mission God had sent him to accomplish. Through his obedience he brought glory to the Father. We too bring glory to the Father as we live obedient lives.

A second request Jesus had for himself was that he be restored to his former glory. Jesus set aside the riches of heaven to enter this world to die for you and me. He was requesting what rightfully belonged to him.

Jesus prays for his disciples (vv. 14-19). Jesus made four requests for his disciples. In verses 11-12 he prayed for their unity. In verse 13 he prayed that they might have joy. In verses 14-16 he prayed that God would protect them from Satan and the evil world. In verses 17-19 Jesus requested that God would sanctify his disciples. The word "sanctify" means to be set apart for a purpose. It is through the sanctifying truth of God's Word that we are able to serve the Lord and fulfill his purpose for our lives.

Jesus prays for future believers (vv. 20-21, 24). Jesus also prays for future believers. He was praying for all who would believe. That includes believers today. In verses 21-22 he prayed for unity among all believers. The example of unity for believers is the oneness between Jesus and his Father. When believers exemplify this kind of unity the world will be drawn to Christ and they will believe. A second request for future believers is that they may be perfect in unity (v. 23). A third request for future believers is that they may be with him in heaven (v. 24).

Jesus affirms his commitment to declare God's name (vv. 25-26). Even though the world did not know God, Jesus and his followers did. Jesus stated his continuing commitment to make known the name of God. His mission was to make known the love of God and to have the love of God dwelling in every heart.

May we commit ourselves anew to declaring God's name.

Howard is pastor, Woodville Church, Woodville.

Life and Work Growing spiritually



By Billie Buckley
Philippians 3

I read recently that every sermon has a tune. So, I suppose we could say that every scripture passage has a tune of its own, too.

Some would have us think that every scripture readies us for a protest march that leads straight to City Hall. Others want the music of a parade to be heard in the background of their scripture study. Yet, when you have a recent sorrow or a long-standing hurt, a parade is definitely out. The only tune you want to hear is a somber one.

Where does that leave us? A protest march is out. A parade is not filling. A somber mood is not shared by all. Even a deep theological overture doesn't always fit the bill for a beautiful spring day in May.

As we try to find the tune for this scripture, could we take a friendly stroll? We can hum a quiet tune and neither of us have to worry about perfect pitch. What's important is that we find time to stroll together and search for the tune of the scripture found in the third chapter of Philippians.

The harmony of Christian maturity (vv. 12-14). These verses point out to us that real Christian maturity is a persistent and earnest effort to be what God intends us to be. It involves pressing on when you are discouraged or tired; pressing on when there is no more fight in you; pressing on until you give up and become completely dependent upon God to grow you and mature you.

Why press on? There's a prize out there for you. Remember when you ate Cracker Jacks for the prize? This prize is no cheap attainment. For me, the prize is a personal, loving, working relationship with God. That is the greatest truth and needs to be lived out daily.

The repertoire of living out a great truth (vv. 15-16). Drum roll, please. The power to live out this truth is not given to you primarily to be shut up within yourself for the purpose of enjoying your religion. It begins first with an attitude, as verse 15 reminds us. What attitude? An attitude of perfection. Now, this perfection is not free from fault but striving to be all that God intended you to be.

We are also told in these verses that God uses other believers for us to pattern after. God will reveal to us those whom we should pattern after and those whose Christian lifestyle is not worthy of our consideration as a model. Their life is one of discord.

The discord of a lifestyle that is contradictory to Christ's demands (vv. 17-19). Paul called those who confuse other Christians an enemy of the cross of Christ. That is strong language; therefore, it must be a serious affront to Christ. They hurt Paul so much, that as he wrote about them he cried. When is the last time we cried over a fellow Christian's lifestyle? Instead we may applaud them, or even worse, boo them. Neither is appropriate.

Mature Christians should show concern for those Christians who are heavenly-headed but earthly-minded. We should join in a symphony of prayer with the Holy Spirit and other believers who are in attuned fellowship with Christ for those who are out of tune with God.

The crescendos of desire for Christian maturity (vv. 20-21). The great crescendo of desire for a Christian should be to know his Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, and to become more like him. More like him in reflecting these words spoken by our Lord: "... how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doeth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not."

Author John Bunyan says that a hen has four calls — the call when night is near; the call for food; the call of danger; and the call of brooding love, when she wants to feel her children under her wing.

As mature Christians, we need to call to others in all these ways — but especially with the call of a brooding love. This is the hammering staccato sound that echoes softly from the cross and desires to draw all men to it.

Buckley is a member of Petal-Harvey Church, Petal.

capsules

ORLANDO'S GROWTH COMPELS BAPTISTS TO STAY
ALERT: (BP) — Orlando, Fla., is a boom town with a corner on the dream market — a wildly successful market along International Drive with Disney World as its anchor. It is now the world's fourth largest tourist attraction, just after Jerusalem, Mecca, and Rome — cities where devoted pilgrims throng to worship. In 1993, 13.5 million travelers came to Orlando for sun, fun, and fantasy, and every day, say city planners, 300 of them decide to stay. Its airport is the world's 28th busiest, and one-fourth of the city's 2.3 million people are employed in tourism. The city is playing a frenzied game of catch-up. Local Southern Baptists also are playing catch-up. The 123 churches of the Greater Orlando Baptist Association mean there is only one Baptist church for every 100,000 people. That is why Cross Over Orlando is so important to local leaders. Hopefully, the effort will help meet the goal of 10 new starts during 1994 in three communities: Hispanic, black, and suburban.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD WINS \$1 MILLION "BUFFER"
PRECEDENT CASE: HOUSTON (ABP) — A jury in Houston awarded Planned Parenthood more than \$1 million in punitive damages May 9 from groups that protested at Houston-area abortion clinics during the 1992 Republican National Convention. The verdict, coupled with the finding last week that the groups and their leaders acted with malice, allows the judge to consider making permanent the restrictions she placed on how close protesters can demonstrate around clinics. Those restrictions require protesters to maintain buffer zones around clinics and prohibit them from blocking patient entrances. Planned Parenthood praised the verdict as a victory for women, but Rescue America leader Don Treshman vowed never to pay the judgment, calling it an "invalid verdict. I would go to jail rather than pay a dollar to the people who profit off the blood and mangled bodies of babies."

GENESIS RECORDS SIGNS BRENT LAMB: NASHVILLE (BP) — Brent Lamb will tell you he is an unlikely candidate to spread God's message through music. He cannot read music; as a left-handed child, he learned to play right-handed stringed instruments upside down; and he stutters. Yet Lamb has just signed a contract with the Baptist Sunday School Board's Genesis Records as a recording artist, songwriter, and producer. Lamb's first release in July will be a collection of "positive country" and Christian songs. "I'm not special, and I'm not qualified," he said at his private recording studio in Nashville recently. "I'm obedient. It's just about showing up for work."

FIRST INTACT ENGLISH BIBLE WORTH \$1.5 MILLION: LONDON, England (EP) — The British Library will pay \$1.5 million for a copy of the first English edition of the Bible that is still intact. The book, from the 16th century, is one of two known copies of William Tyndale's New Testament translation. The other copy, at St. Paul's Cathedral, is missing 71 pages. Almost all of the 3,000 copies of the book printed in Germany in 1526 were burned by the Bishop of London. Tyndale's translation from the Greek was done in a time when only clergy and scholars were permitted to read the Bible, and his work was considered an act of heresy. He was burned at the stake in 1536.

PRIME TIME'S FAMILY VALUES GET MIXED REVIEWS: ALEXANDRIA, Va. — It's been two years since former Vice President Dan Quayle's "Murphy Brown" speech, and much has changed. Despite the pro-family values movement gaining momentum, has prime time television gotten the message? "In only a few, selected cases is prime time reflecting the pro-family tide now on the rise in the country. Unfortunately, there is a disturbing trend that persists in Hollywood, ignoring popular sentiment among the public and force-feeding it liberal mores instead," said L. Brent Bozell, chairman of the Media Research Center. Bozell praised NBC's "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," as well as ABC's "Home Improvement" (this season's number one show) and "Family Matters" for their emphasis on the benefits of the traditional family unit. He also praised CBS's "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman," and attributed that show's popularity to its respect for traditional values. Bozell pointed to several examples of prime time television's heading in the wrong direction: an "Empty Nest" episode in which a financially secure character decides to raise her illegitimate child by herself; several "Roseanne" episodes regularly glorifying the homosexual lifestyle, and in which a main character becomes pregnant during a one-night stand, determining the baby had no need of a father; and a CBS after-school special, "Other Mothers," about a boy with lesbian "parents."

EIGHT PERCENT OF GRADE-SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE HOME ALONE, CENSUS BUREAU FINDS: About 1.6 million children comprising 8% of grade school children of employed mothers came home to empty houses in 1991, according to a report released by the Commerce Department's Census Bureau. The report, "Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Fall 1991," said nearly one-third of the children were 5- to 11-year-olds, while the remaining two-thirds were aged 12-14 (p. 70-36).

REA president seeks return to historic Bible study "training"

NASHVILLE (BP) — A worrisome trend is emerging in Southern Baptist Bible study, where enrollment has slowed dramatically since the 1950s.

Is the Southern Baptist Convention emphasizing organizational growth over spiritual development? Does it emphasize training, or use outdated methods?

Bill Taylor, president of the Southern Baptist Religious Educators Association (SBREA), said he believes the convention's historic emphasis on training has faded.

Taylor, minister of education at North Phoenix Church, used the early 1900s as an example of what can be done through education.

Although many Baptists lacked more than an elementary school education, he said, they formed great evangelistic movements because pastors and lay members taught church study courses.

"Historians outside our convention refer to that as 'The Baptist Miracle,' that we could take uneducated people, give ourselves to the ministry of education, and help those people accomplish unbelievable things," said Taylor, who last year released a nine-hour video series, "Teaching to Make a

Difference."

"There needs to be a return to training and equipping people and leaders," Taylor said.

In essay-style responses to a Baptist Sunday School Board survey last fall of approximately 750 ministers of education, 32% of the ministers said their greatest challenge in working with volunteers is lack of commitment in such areas as teaching and ministry outreach.

However, Ron Pratt, BSSB church leadership consultant — who recently compiled the results — said the problem is not commitment. Instead, he said he believes it is the tasks church members are asked to undertake.

"My own opinion is lay people are very committed," Pratt said. "The boomer-buster generations may be over-committed. But many are not yet willing to commit themselves to traditional church organizations, programs, or structures. They're interested in personal spiritual growth and development, in committing themselves to something that they believe will make a significant difference."

Two popular BSSB courses demonstrate this, according to Pratt. "Experiencing God" is a 13-

week study course; "MasterLife" runs for 26 weeks. Despite their length, he said, they have been well received.

"Experiencing God" has been successful because it deals with individual spiritual growth and has nothing to do with organization, he said.

"Too often, we're still trying to enlist people to organizations rather than enlisting people to be instruments of God to change lives."

Although they differ on the extent of the convention's educational shortcomings, both Pratt and Taylor agree too many educational leaders in the church are being saddled with administrative chores.

"Southern Baptist educators have gotten into the stance where they're promoters, organizers, party presenters, and administrators, seeing themselves as everything you can imagine except educators," Taylor said.

"We've allowed everything under the sun to squeeze out education. Promoting programs, high attendance days... there are all kinds of things you can do to take up your time on a church staff."

Taylor said the implications of failing to emphasize education can be seen via statistics for the last half of the 1980s. Over that period, 6,000 Southern Baptist churches (of approximately 37,000 at the time) did not baptize anyone. Another 13,000 baptized less than five people.

The SBREA president said, "We're not getting the job done in carrying out the Great Commission."

While Southern Baptists baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Taylor said, they must not neglect the second half of Jesus' command to teach people to observe his commands.

"I think that's where we have a responsibility today in the churches, seminaries, and denominational agencies," Taylor said. "We need to see ourselves differently than we have in the last 25 years. We've got to see ourselves as educators."

Devotional

Who is Lord?

By June DePriest

"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth" (Rev. 3:15-16).

In the book of Revelation, John wrote to the seven churches in Asia Minor encouraging them to continue to be loyal under very difficult circumstances.

Caesar Domitian had erected a statue of himself. It was over 16 feet tall and cast a big shadow in the marketplace. The Roman Emperor demanded that Christians bow and say, "Caesar is Lord."

Flesh was cheap; the Christian who refused faced certain persecution and quite often, death.

A group called Nicoliants said it was all right to bow to Caesar during the week and say, "Caesar is Lord;" and on Sunday to shout, "Jesus is Lord." It was a faith of convenience.

Many Christians today would find it difficult to bow to a statue of Caesar. But how many of us during the week in the way we live, in our conversation, and in our desire to succeed bow to him?

Our scripture today reminds us how God views those who, like a chameleon, change colors to blend with the environment.

Prayer for today: Lord, help me this day not to bow to Caesar.
 DePriest, a member of Parkway Church, Jackson, lives in Clinton.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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IVJ CV XTIX JIQ XTSFS OTIDD RS I FEEX EB
 LSOOS, YTCAT OTIDD OXIVJ BEF IV SVOCKV EB
 XTS MSEMDS; XE CX OTIDD XTS KSVXCDSO OSSU:
 IVJ TC FSOX OTIDD RS KDEFCEGO.

COICIT SDSPSV: XSV.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Twenty: Thirty-One.

Baptist Record

5-26
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May 26, 1994